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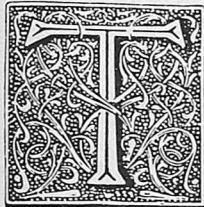
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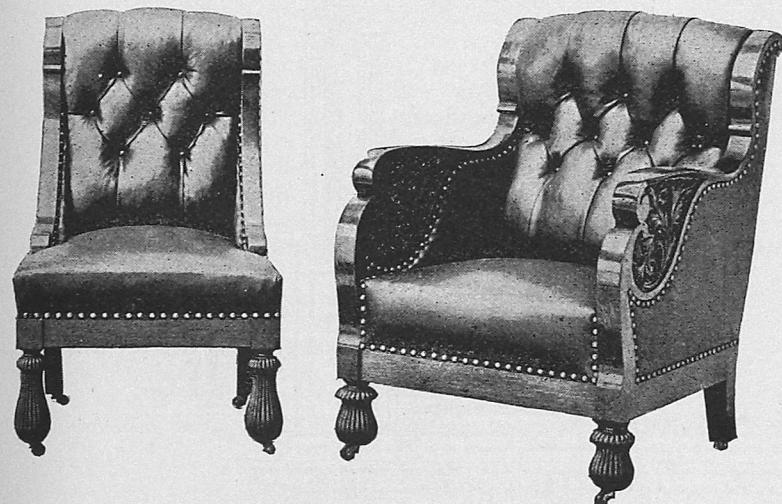
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LIBRARY FURNITURE BY A. B. & E. L. SHAW.



THE furniture produced by the well-known Boston firm of A. B. & E. L. Shaw is remarkable for the combining of utility with artistic results. When we examine any of the old time Italian furniture manufactured in Europe we are surprised not only at the rigidity and uncomfortableness of the design, but by the arrogant and overloaded decoration. The Italian Renaissance, as a style, has been very much praised by critics the world over, but we fear their praises must have referred to the ideal qualities of the style referred to, and not to the actual work itself. Any one who will recall the broken pediments placed over doorways and cabinets, the sharp edges of which resemble the teeth of



LIBRARY EASY AND SIDE CHAIR. BY A. B. & E. L. SHAW.

beavers or rats, the cabinets with their carved doors and pilasters, rioting in efflorescence and grotesqueness, their coffers with friezes of cupids of extraordinary fatness, must breathe a sigh of relief when he considers that modern American furniture constructed in this style has thrown aside all such monstrosities, and the formerly insane work seems now properly clothed and in its right mind.

For utility, solidity, beauty of outline and chasteness of decoration we refer our readers to the accompanying illustration of a library suite made by the above firm. The woodwork is either in white or red mahogany, or oak, and the leather upholstery can be had in any desired shade. What will strike the reader as being especially admirable is the refinement and restraint of the carving and general outline of the pieces. In furniture of this kind the Messrs. Shaw have provided the trade with articles eminently desirable and salable. The design as a whole is one that invites to contemplation and rest, exercising a soothing effect upon an irritated nervous system, and predisposing the occupant of the apartment graced by such furniture to serious contemplation and study. Nothing less admirable is worthy of being purchased by a man of taste and refinement, and anything more decorated, or showy, would be useless for library purposes. The suite exhibits sterling upholstery treatment, and the forms of all three pieces are perfect ideals of comfortable and luxurious repose.

AN IDEAL NURSERY.

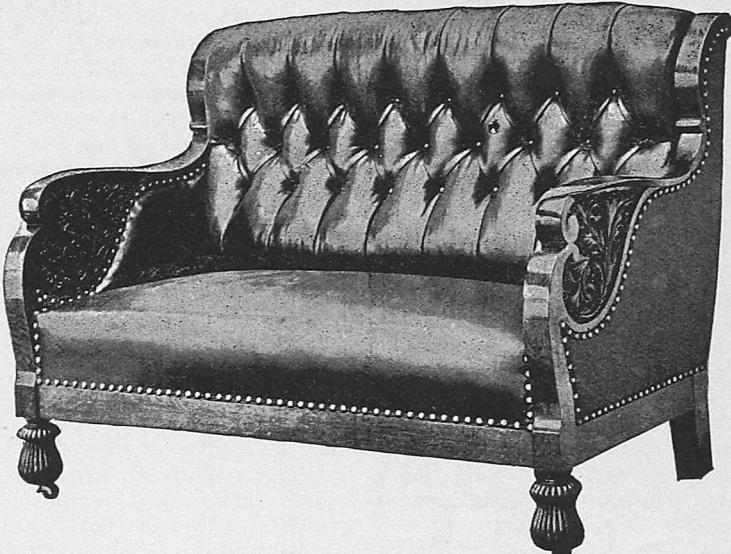
OUR ideal nursery is a large room with three sunny windows and two large folding doors, one opening into baby's sleeping apartment, and the other into "baby's" private bathroom. The walls and ceiling are in light pink, and decorated with panels, whereon are illustrations of fairy tales and nursery rhymes, the brush work of an artist. These panels are surrounded by garlands of flowers; poppies, pink and white, frame the memorable adventures of "The Sleeping Beauty"; thistles, the story of "The Miller's Ass"; clover, gorse and

dandelions that of "Little Dandelion Fluff," etc., etc. On the floor is a thick white cloth carpet whereon a procession of lambs, wolves, lions, birds and other animals beloved by infants, in appliquéd work of pink woolen velvet, wend their way in bold relief. A broad low sofa upholstered in pink occupies one entire side of the room. There is no other furniture except two rows of shelves covered with pink cloth for the toys. These are placed over the white marble hearth, from which the baby is kept away by a silver grating, a huge musical box playing one hundred different airs.

Baby's bedroom is draped with pink and white China silk; the cot, of Indian work in sandal wood and mother-of-pearl, has Valenciennes curtains over pink silk, and beside it is a low, comfortable armchair, for the night nurse to sit in when on duty. The bathroom is worthy of the daintiest and most exigeante of mondaines. The walls are of English porcelain tiles, with pink morning glories on a creamy ground; the tiny bathtub is of the same porcelain, and so are the basins, jugs, etc. The floor is covered with Chinese matting of extreme fineness, and on a low table are baby's ivory brushes, powder and soap boxes and pincushion, all with a wee gold monogram and coronet. We have rarely seen anything prettier than this suite of rooms, where a child sees nothing but what is sweet and elegant, and the arrangement thereof is, without a doubt, the greatest success achieved by any loving young mother.

DECORATIVE NOTES.

NOTHING is so nice for floor coverings in the summer, as the mattings of China and Japan. These are being made in colors to suit all occasions, besides the old-fashioned checks and stripes, and also the whole web, woven in one piece instead of joints at every two yards as formerly. Thus there is no bother about pulling apart when laying the breadths. Mattings once down should remain, as in taking up and relaying they are apt to crumble off at the ends; so the best way when one intends using mattings for the summer is to leave them down and lay the other carpet over them, using thick wadded carpet lining between the two, otherwise the selvages of the matting will cause the overlying carpet to show lines of wear. It is not



LIBRARY SOFA. BY A. B. & E. L. SHAW.

necessary to put anything under the matting unless there should be cracks in the floor, then use plain carpet paper. Do not use wadded linings, as the mattings will neither lie nor wear well over a soft yielding surface.

THE art of lacquering has for its object the prevention of tarnishing, besides giving to the surface of metal an agreeable color. The ground may be separately painted and then varnished, or the varnish, a transparent one, may be tinged with some coloring matter. Shellac is the varnish usually used. The effect of gilding may be imparted to the surface of tin or lead if the varnish is tinged with annatto, turmeric, or gamboge.